



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Accountability Coordinators

FROM: John R. Payne
Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability & School Improvement

DATE: January 19, 2021

RE: Addendum to Consolidate State Plan Related to COVID-19

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) intends to request an addendum to the ESSA accountability plan related to the pandemic as permitted under a streamlined process established by the United States Department of Education (USED). The [addendum application form](#) outlines the elements that may be included in the addendum. The USED's [frequently asked questions document](#) further identifies changes that must be submitted through a formal plan amendment rather than on the streamlined addendum. This addendum assumes that the state will be administering assessments in spring 2021; the SCDE has separately filed its [request](#) for a waiver of that testing requirement. The proposed one-year changes include:

- Shifting timelines for long-term goals and measures of interim progress because assessments were not administered in 2020;
- Adjusting the methodology for annual meaningful differentiation of schools to account for missing measures, including those related to school quality, growth in fourth grade, and English learners' proficiency progress;
- Changing the way schools with consistently underperforming subgroups are identified to adjust for 2020 (the existing plan requires three consecutive years; 2020 creates a continuity gap);
- Extending the time by one year that schools in comprehensive support and additional targeted support remain in that improvement status; and
- Modifying the exit criteria from improvement status to take into account the extended time.

The SCDE intends to submit the addendum request to the USED by mid-February 2021. Those wishing to make public comment on any of these proposed, one-year changes to the 2021 accountability system are encouraged to submit those comments online through the website linked [here](#). The SCDE will consider — and address prior to the February 1 filing — comments received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26. Any questions can be addressed to essa.comments@ed.sc.gov.